UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/391,052	09/16/1999	YUICHI NAOI	35.C13838	7999

5514 7590 12/17/2003

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER	
POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	14

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/391,052	NAOI, YUICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph R. Pokrzywa	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 September 2003*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-46* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-46* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 9/22/03, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-46** are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12, 14, 15, 17-26, 28, 29, 31-36, 38, 39, and 41-46** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eisele *et al.* (U.S Patent Number 6,034,995) in view of Pinede *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 4,554,413).

Regarding ***claims 1 and 24***, Eisele discloses a communication apparatus (see Fig. 1, station 2) and method adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines (lines 11 and 12) connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time (stations 1 and 3, column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21, and column 15, lines 6 through 61), comprising a first communication unit (switch 6) connectable with a first telephone line (via line 11), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the first telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a second communication unit (switch 7)

connectable with a second telephone line (via line 12), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a power supply unit (voltage control circuit 82, and the supply voltage of line 13, which supply the operating voltage Vc) adapted to supply power to the first and second communication units (column 7, lines 40 through 67, and column 10, line 45 through column 11, line 14), a detection unit (comparators 91-93) for detecting actuation factors for the first and second communication units (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34), and a controller (control unit 81, column 11, lines 1 through 14) adapted to, when the first and second communication units are on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44), control the power supply unit to supply power to the second communication unit but not to supply power to the first communication unit, in order to retain the first communication unit as it is on standby (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57), in response to detection of an actuation factor for the second communication unit by the detection unit (column 10, line 36 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 23).

However, Eisele fails to specifically teach if the differential bus lines 11 and 12, which were considered as "telephone lines", are indeed, actually telephone lines, as no specific teaching of telephone communication is taught. Contrarily, Pinede discloses a communication apparatus that uses differential bus lines as telephone lines to transmit data (see abstract, column 7, line 63 through column 9, line 17). Because of this, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to consider the lines taught by Eisele as

telephone lines, similar to Pinede. The system of Eisele would easily incorporate the teachings of Pinede, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding ***claims 2 and 25***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, respectively, and Eisele further teaches that the detection unit detects an actuation factor in response to detection of a call signal from the second telephone line (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34).

Regarding ***claims 3 and 26***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, respectively, and Pinede further teaches that an actuation factor is detected in response to a key inputted by a user through an operation unit (column 3, lines 27 through 52). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further include the teachings of Pinede within the system of Eisele, thereby having the detection unit detect an actuation factor in response to the key input by a user through an operation unit. Eisele's system would easily be modified to include the teachings of Pinede, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding ***claims 5 and 28***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, and Eisele further teaches of a relay for turning on and off power from the power supply unit to the second communication unit (switches 6, 7, and 83, column 6, lines 1 through 21, and column 11, lines 1 through 29), wherein the first communication unit turns on the relay in response to detection of an actuation factor by the detection unit (column 6, lines 1 through 21).

Regarding ***claims 6 and 29***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, respectively, and Eisele further teaches that the power supply unit is adapted to switch whether or not power is supplied to the second communication unit, and wherein the first communication unit enables the power supply unit to start supplying power to the second communication unit in response to detection of an actuation factor by the detection unit (column 10, line 35 through column 12, line 34).

Regarding ***claims 8 and 31***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, respectively, and Eisele further teaches that the second communication unit is provided with a power source control unit operating even on standby, and wherein the second communication unit suspends supplying power to the second communication unit itself while on standby, and starts supplying power to the second communication unit itself in response to an actuation signal from the first communication unit (column 11, line 46 through column 13, line 8, and column 15, lines 6 through 61).

Regarding ***claims 9 and 32***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, respectively, and Eisele further teaches of a second detection unit adapted to detect an actuation factor with respect to the first communication unit, wherein the first communication unit is provided with a low power dissipation control unit operating even on standby, and wherein the first communication unit shifts to a low power dissipation state while on standby, and the low power dissipation control unit causes the first communication unit to shift to an operational state in response to an actuation signal from the second detection unit (column 11, line 46 through column 13, line 8, and column 15, lines 6 through 61).

Regarding ***claims 10 and 34***, Eisele discloses a communication apparatus (see Fig. 1, station 2) and method adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines (lines 11 and 12) connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time (stations 1 and 3, column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21, and column 15, lines 6 through 61), comprising a first communication unit (switch 7) connectable with a first telephone line (via line 12), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the first telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a second communication unit (switch 6) connectable with a second telephone line (via line 11), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a storage unit adapted to store data received by the second communication unit (column 8, line 40 through column 9, line 29, see Figs. 1, 2, and 4), a detection unit (comparators 91-93) adapted to detect actuation factors for the first and second communication units (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34), a power supply unit (voltage control circuit 82, and the supply voltage of line 13, which supply the operating voltage Vc) adapted to supply power to the first and second communication units (column 7, lines 40 through 67, and column 10, line 45 through column 11, line 14), and an output unit adapted to output data received by the first and second communication units (see abstract, column 1, lines 5 through 28, and column 11, lines 30 through 45), wherein, when the first and second communication units are in a standby state of not receiving power from the power supply unit (column 10, lines 36 through 44), in response to detection of an actuation

factor for the first communication unit by the detection unit (column 10, line 36 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 23), the first communication unit shifts from the standby state to an operational state of receiving power from the power supply unit in order to receive data, while the second communication unit is retained on standby (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57), and the first communication unit outputs the received data to the output unit (column 11, line 30 through column 13, line 8), and in response to the detection of an actuation factor for the second communication unit by the detection unit, the second communication unit shifts from the standby state to an operational state of receiving power from the power supply unit in order to receive data, stores the received data in the storage unit (column 8, line 31 through column 9, line 29), and enables the first communication unit to shift from the standby state to the operational state (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57), and the first communication unit outputs the received data to the output unit (column 11, line 30 through column 13, line 8).

However, Eisele fails to specifically teach if the differential bus lines 11 and 12, which were considered as "telephone lines", are indeed, actually telephone lines, as no specific teaching of telephone communication is taught. Contrarily, Pinede discloses a communication apparatus that uses differential bus lines as telephone lines to transmit data (see abstract, column 7, line 63 through column 9, line 17). Because of this, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to consider the lines taught by Eisele as telephone lines, similar to Pinede. The system of Eisele would easily incorporate the teachings of Pinede, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding ***claims 11 and 35***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 10 and 34, respectively, and Eisele further teaches that the second communication unit sends an actuation signal to the detection unit after completion of data reception (column 9, lines 12 through 29, and column 11, line 15 through column 12, line 34).

Regarding ***claims 12 and 36***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 10 and 34, and Eisele further teaches that the first communication unit is provided with a memory for storing data received from the storage unit (memory 63, column 9, lines 11 through 29), the second communication unit transfers the data stored in the storage unit to the memory of the first communication unit, and the first communication unit outputs the data transferred to the memory of the output unit (column 11, line 30 through column 12, line 8).

Regarding ***claims 14 and 38***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 10 and 34, respectively, and Eisele further teaches of a second detection unit (comparators 91-93) adapted to detect an actuation factor for the second communication unit (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34), wherein the second communication unit is adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby and shift from the standby state to the operational state in response to detection of the actuation factor by the second detection unit (column 10, line 36 through column 12, line 34).

Regarding ***claims 15 and 39***, Eisele discloses a communication apparatus (see Fig. 1, station 2) and method adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines (lines 11 and 12) connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time (stations 1 and 3, column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21, and column 15, lines 6 through 61), comprising a first communication unit (switch 6) connectable with a first telephone line (via line 11), adapted to

reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the first telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a second communication unit (switch 7) connectable with a second telephone line (via line 12), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), an input unit adapted to input data (see abstract, column 1, lines 5 through 28), an instruction unit (switch 83) adapted to instruct transmission of the input data inputted by the input unit (column 11, lines 30 through 45), a power supply unit (voltage control circuit 82, and the supply voltage of line 13, which supply the operating voltage Vc) adapted to supply power to the first and second communication units (column 7, lines 40 through 67, and column 10, line 45 through column 11, line 14), and a controller (control unit 81, column 11, lines 1 through 14) adapted to, when the first and second communication units are on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44), in response to an instruction from the instruction unit during a communication by the first communication unit, shift the second communication unit from a standby state of not receiving power from the power supply unit to an operational state of receiving power from the power supply unit in order to transmit data (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57), and in response to an instruction from the instruction unit, shift the first communication unit from a standby state to an operational state in order to transmit data from the first communication unit, while retaining the second communication as it is on standby without shifting the second communication unit to an

operational state (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57).

However, Eisele fails to specifically teach if the differential bus lines 11 and 12, which were considered as "telephone lines", are indeed, actually telephone lines, as no specific teaching of telephone communication is taught. Contrarily, Pinede discloses a communication apparatus that uses differential bus lines as telephone lines to transmit data (see abstract, column 7, line 63 through column 9, line 17). Because of this, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to consider the lines taught by Eisele as telephone lines, similar to Pinede. The system of Eisele would easily incorporate the teachings of Pinede, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding ***claims 17 and 33***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, respectively, and Eisele further teaches that the controller shifts the first communication unit from a standby state to an operational state in response to detection of an actuation factor for the first communication unit by the detection unit (column 15 through column 13, line 8).

Regarding ***claims 18 and 41***, Eisele discloses a communication apparatus (see Fig. 1, station 2) and method adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines (lines 11 and 12) connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time (stations 1 and 3, column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21, and column 15, lines 6 through 61), comprising a first communication unit (switch 6) connectable with a first telephone line (via line 11), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the first telephone line

(column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a second communication unit (switch 7) connectable with a second telephone line (via line 12), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a detection unit (comparators 91-93) adapted to detect actuation factors for the first and second communication units (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34), a power supply unit (voltage control circuit 82, and the supply voltage of line 13, which supply the operating voltage Vc) adapted to supply power to the first and second communication units (column 7, lines 40 through 67, and column 10, line 45 through column 11, line 14), and an output unit adapted to output data received by the first and second communication units (see abstract, column 1, lines 5 through 28, and column 11, lines 30 through 45), wherein, when the first and second communication units are in a standby state of not receiving power from the power supply unit (column 10, lines 36 through 44), in response to detection of an actuation factor for the first communication unit by the detection unit (column 10, line 36 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 23), the first communication unit shifts from the standby state to an operational state of receiving power from the power supply unit in order to receive data, while retaining the second communication unit as it is on standby without shifting the second communication unit from the standby state to an operational state (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57), and the first communication unit outputs the received data to the output unit (column 11, line 30 through column 13, line 8), and in response to the detection of an actuation factor for the second communication unit, the second communication unit shifts from the standby state to an

operational state of receiving power from the power supply unit in order to receive data and enables the first communication unit to shift from the standby state to the operational state (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57), and the first communication unit outputs the received data to the output unit (column 11, line 30 through column 13, line 8).

However, Eisele fails to specifically teach if the differential bus lines 11 and 12, which were considered as "telephone lines", are indeed, actually telephone lines, as no specific teaching of telephone communication is taught. Contrarily, Pinede discloses a communication apparatus that uses differential bus lines as telephone lines to transmit data (see abstract, column 7, line 63 through column 9, line 17). Because of this, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to consider the lines taught by Eisele as telephone lines, similar to Pinede. The system of Eisele would easily incorporate the teachings of Pinede, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding ***claims 19 and 42***, Eisele discloses a communication apparatus (see Fig. 1, station 2) and method adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines (lines 11 and 12) connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time (stations 1 and 3, column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21, and column 15, lines 6 through 61), comprising a first communication unit (switch 6) connectable with a first telephone line (via line 11), adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the first telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a second communication unit (switch 7) connectable with a second telephone line (via line 12), adapted to reduce power dissipation on

standby (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 15, lines 48 through 61), and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line (column 5, line 58 through column 6, line 21), a first controller for controlling the first communication unit (switch control 5, column 6, lines 1 through 21), the first controller adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, line 36 through column 11, line 29), a second controller for controlling the second communication unit (switch control 5, column 6, lines 1 through 21), the second controller adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby (column 10, line 36 through column 11, line 29), and a power supply unit (voltage control circuit 82, and the supply voltage of line 13, which supply the operating voltage Vc) adapted to supply power to the first and second communication units and the first and second controllers (column 7, lines 40 through 67, and column 10, line 45 through column 11, line 14), wherein the first controller includes a detection unit (comparators 91-93) adapted to detect actuation factors for the first and second communication units (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34), and when the first and second communication units and the first and second controllers are in a standby state (column 10, lines 36 through 44), the second communication unit and the second controller shift from the standby state of not receiving power from the power supply unit to an operational state in response to detection of an actuation factor for the second communication unit by the detection unit (column 10, line 36 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 23), retaining the first communication unit and the first controller as they are on standby (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57).

However, Eisele fails to specifically teach if the differential bus lines 11 and 12, which were considered as "telephone lines", are indeed, actually telephone lines, as no specific teaching of telephone communication is taught. Contrarily, Pinede discloses a communication apparatus that uses differential bus lines as telephone lines to transmit data (see abstract, column 7, line 63 through column 9, line 17). Because of this, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to consider the lines taught by Eisele as telephone lines, similar to Pinede. The system of Eisele would easily incorporate the teachings of Pinede, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding ***claims 20 and 43***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 19 and 42, respectively, and Eisele further teaches that the first communication unit and the first controller shift from the standby state to an operational state in response to detection of an actuation factor for the first communication unit by the detection unit (column 10, lines 36 through 44, and column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34).

Regarding ***claims 21 and 44***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 19 and 42, respectively, and Eisele further teaches of a storage unit adapted to store received data (column 8, line 40 through column 9, line 29, see Figs. 1, 2, and 4) and an output unit adapted to output received data (see abstract, column 1, lines 5 through 28, and column 11, lines 30 through 45), wherein after the second communication unit and the second controller shift from the standby state to the operational state and data is received in the second communication unit is stored in the storage unit, the second controller outputs an actuation factor to the first controller in order to output the received data to the output unit, and

the first controller shifts from the standby state to an operational state (column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 5 through 57).

Regarding ***claims 22 and 45***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 19 and 42, respectively, and Eisele further teaches of an output unit adapted to output received data (see abstract, column 1, lines 5 through 28, and column 11, lines 30 through 45), wherein after the second communication unit and the second controller shift from the standby state to the operational state, the second controller outputs an actuation factor to the first controller in order to output the received data to the output unit and the first controller shifts from the standby state to an operational state (column 10, lines 36 through 44, column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 6 through 61).

Regarding ***claims 23 and 46***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 19 and 42, and Eisele further teaches of an input unit adapted to input data (see abstract, column 1, lines 5 through 28, and column 11, lines 30 through 45) and an instruction unit (switch 83) adapted to instruct transmission of the data inputted by the input unit (column 11, lines 30 through 45), wherein the first controller shifts the second communication unit and the second controller from the standby state to the operational state in accordance with an instruction by the instruction unit (column 10, lines 36 through 44, column 11, line 1 through column 12, line 34, and column 15, lines 6 through 61).

4. **Claims 4, 7, 13, 16, 27, 30, 37, and 40** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eisele *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,034,995) in view of Pinede *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 4,554,413), and further in view of Nakamura *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,608,546, cited in the Office action dated 6/18/03).

Regarding ***claims 4 and 27***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, but fail to specifically teach of a document sheet reading unit, wherein the detection unit detects an actuation factor in response to detection of a document sheet in the document sheet reading unit. Nakamura discloses a data communications apparatus and method having a computer modem function comprising a first communication unit (NCU 7, column 4, lines 25 through 29) and a second communication unit (RS-232 port 14, column 4, lines 41 through 46), and further teaches of a document sheet reading unit (reading unit 2), wherein a detection unit detects an actuation factor in response to detection of a document sheet in the document sheet reading unit (column 4, lines 19 through 29, and column 5, lines 40 through 55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Nakamura's teachings in the system of Eisele and Pinede. The system of Eisele and Pinede would easily be modified to include Nakamura's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature, since both Eisele and Nakamura teach of a communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines and having a standby mode in the respective communication units.

Regarding ***claims 7 and 30***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 1 and 24, but fail to specifically teach if the second communication unit suspends supplying a clock signal to the second communication unit itself while on standby,

and starts supplying the clock signal to the second communication unit itself in response to an actuation signal from the first communication unit. Nakamura discloses a data communications apparatus and method having a computer modem function comprising a first communication unit (NCU 7, column 4, lines 25 through 29) and a second communication unit (RS-232 port 14, column 4, lines 41 through 46). Nakamura further teaches that the second communication unit suspends supplying a clock signal to the second communication unit itself while on standby (column 8, lines 32 through 50), and starts supplying the clock signal to the second communication unit itself in response to an actuation signal from the first communication unit (column 8, lines 10 through 50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Nakamura's teachings in the system of Eisele and Pinede. The system of Eisele and Pinede would easily be modified to include Nakamura's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature, since both Eisele and Nakamura teach of a communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines and having a standby mode in the respective communication units.

Regarding ***claims 13 and 37***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 10 and 34, respectively, and but fail to particularly teach if the output unit is a printer. Nakamura discloses a data communications apparatus and method having a computer modem function comprising a first communication unit (NCU 7, column 4, lines 25 through 29) and a second communication unit (RS-232 port 14, column 4, lines 41 through 46). Nakamura further teaches of an output unit being a printer (recording unit 11, column 5, line 56 through column 6, line 28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Nakamura's teachings in the system of

Eisele and Pinede. The system of Eisele and Pinede would easily be modified to include Nakamura's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature, since both Eisele and Nakamura teach of a communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines and having a standby mode in the respective communication units.

Regarding ***claims 16 and 40***, Eisele and Pinede disclose the apparatus and method discussed above in claims 15 and 39, respectively, but fail to particularly teach if the input unit is a scanner for reading a document sheet. Nakamura discloses a data communications apparatus and method having a computer modem function comprising a first communication unit (NCU 7, column 4, lines 25 through 29) and a second communication unit (RS-232 port 14, column 4, lines 41 through 46), and further teaches that an input unit is a scanner for reading a document sheet (reading unit 2, column 4, lines 14 through 29, and column 7, lines 41 through 60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Nakamura's teachings in the system of Eisele and Pinede. The system of Eisele and Pinede would easily be modified to include Nakamura's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature, since both Eisele and Nakamura teach of a communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines and having a standby mode in the respective communication units.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Koizumi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,909,488) discloses a system having a stand-by mode for reducing power consumption.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

jrp

EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600